Oklahoma native's legacy

There will be talk this weekend about Sam Bradford's future as his Vikings play the Saints.

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Deep thoughts

TobyMac draws from reservoir of inspirational, popular hits in new concert tour.

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DHS reforms show progress, but some challenges remain

BY RANDY ELLIS
Staff Writer
rellis@oklahoman.com

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has made progress in reforming its child welfare system, but areas of concern remain and future progress is threatened by state budget issues.

Those are conclusions contained in a report released last week by three out-of-state monitors.

"The advancements made to date are fragile, and not yet fully rooted, particularly with respect to manageable caseloads and an adequate array of placements for children," the three child welfare experts said. "Budget pressures loom large presently, and threaten the pace and progress of the overall reform effort at a critical time."

The experts were retained to oversee reform efforts as part of a negotiated settlement to a Tulsa class-action lawsuit over the maltreatment of children in state custody. The settlement was reached in 2012. This is the ninth progress report submitted by the monitors, who file a report every six months.

The reports monitor the state's progress in meeting 31 specific goals related to reducing maltreatment in care, increasing the availability of

SEE DHS, 2A

SHOCKING NEWS

Along with snow and ice, it's one of those things we hate about winter

Dhani Edwards, 13, of Vernon, Texas, laughs as she experiences static electricity during a demonstration at the Science Museum Oklahoma this week. [PHOTO BY JIM BECKEL, THE OKLAHOMAN]

BY MATT PATTERSON
Staff Writer | mpatterson@oklahoman.com

Shocks come in many forms. A baby on the way. A new car at Christmas. Walking across your living room and touching a light switch.

Snow, slippery roads and rampant cold and flu may be the bane of winter, but static electricity ranks right up there. When the air is dry and the temperature dips, emptying the clothes dryer starts to resemble the fight scene between Luke Skywalker and Emperor Palpatine, and his lighting tipped fingers, in "Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi."

Not even Gary England, dubbed the "Weather God of Oklahoma City" by the New York Times, is immune to the occasional zap. And

SEE STATIC, 2A

'Pill mill' case headed to trial

BY KYLE SCHWAB
Staff Writer
kschwab@oklahoman.com

An Oklahoma City doctor is headed to trial in a felony case alleging he operated a "pill mill."

Harvey Clarke Jenkins Jr., 53, of Oklahoma City, is accused of distributing narcotics without legitimate medical purposes and without establishing doctor/patient relationships. Prosecutors have called Jenkins a "drug dealer with a prescription pad."

On Thursday, the case moved forward following a preliminary hearing. Oklahoma County Special Judge Donald Easter found enough evidence

SEE TRIAL, 2A

Michael Romero, chief finance officer with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, testifies Friday before the House Special Investigation Committee at the state Capitol. [PHOTO BY STEVE SISNEY, THE OKLAHOMAN]

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Federal funds used like 'line of credit,' CFO says

BY DALE DENWALT
Capitol Bureau
ddenwalt@oklahoman.com

As Chief Financial Officer Michael Romero began digging into problems he found at the Oklahoma State Department of Health, he learned the agency was insolvent and regularly spent more cash than it had budgeted.

When he asked around the agency, where he began working in April 2017, Romero inquired whether it maintained a line of credit to pay its bills.

"If we have line of credit, that's a bad thing," Romero told the House Special Investigation Committee. "If we're doing that, we're going to put ourselves in peril with other bills."

Ultimately, he learned that money from the Ryan White

SEE ROMERO, 3A

TODAY'S PRAYER
God of happiness, thank you for times of joy and gladness shared with family and friends. Amen.

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